

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Yes, but we will only be able to make copies on APPROVED devices. What if I want to use a piece of content in a family video using a PC (Apple/Wintel)? You know that will never happen because of the ridiculous assertion by the entertainment industry that it would only be a matter of time before it is freely available on the internet for anyone to use. Would I put the family video on the net? I might. But that's my right. Remember I'm only using a small part of the copyrighted material (let's say three 5 second bits of Sienfeld).

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? Once again this is true using APPROVED devices.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Doesn't this defeat the purpose of the Broadcast Flag? Why have it at all then? This would allow the REAL pirates to capture the content and distribute it.

Oh wait. Sure you can use existing electronic equipment. However, you'll only be able to access it in analog format.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

It might not be their intent, but it would almost certainly have an impact on the functionality provided in future devices.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

If I bought an HDTV today, it would need to be replaced when the flag is implemented.

Other Comments:

It continually amazes me that an industry which contributes very little to the public (sure there's plenty of TV shows and movies, BUT how many of them are GOOD?) is so obsessed with controlling our lives. Think about it.

They already control the what: they decide what movies/TV shows are broadcast. They somewhat control the when: you need to be available at certain times to watch the content. Thankfully the VCR and PVR has solved that problem, BUT THEY FOUGHT THAT TOOTH AND NAIL IN COURT, and thankfully the Supreme Court had some common sense and allowed for time-shifted recordings.

BTW, I think this whole idea of copyright protection is smoke and mirrors.

I was listening to NPR one night and someone was being interviewed about the studios' reluctance to completely switch over to DTV. They brought up an interesting point: a vast majority of the studios' archives are on tape.

Those archives have some value. If the studio went all digital, those archives lose that value until they get converted to a digital format,

which costs money.

This problem can be solved by some tax/accounting rules. I'm not an expert but I can envision several ways to encourage the conversion from analog to digital.

Anyways, I appreciate the opportunity you have provided for commenting on this proposal and hope that you seriously consider my comments.